

## **PROVIDING COMMUNITY AGENCY INFORMATION**

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires school district staff to provide information to families and unaccompanied youth (not in the physical presence of a parent or guardian) who are homeless, about community agencies that can help meet basic needs. Districts need to develop a community resource directory. Each district develops a resource directory that makes sense for its community depending on the size of a community and the types of resources available. The Department of Public Instruction created a template of a simple directory that is enclosed in this manual. Also enclosed is a more detailed directory developed by the Sheboygan school district.

Each district should include the following information in their community agency directory:

- Child care programs
- Clothing resources
- Dental and health services (physical and mental)
- Domestic abuse programs
- Employment programs
- Energy assistance
- Food pantries and other community food resources
- Housing programs
- Transportation resources
- Runaway youth services

Below is a listing of Wisconsin agencies that can provide important resources for families and unaccompanied youth who are homeless. Additionally, every county has its own informal networks that provide resources to homeless families. Please include information on church food pantries and other resources specific to your community.

### **1. Childcare**

The Wisconsin Child Care Resource & Referral Network at <http://www.supportingfamiliesaltogether.org> provides information on affordable quality childcare.

### **2. Wisconsin Domestic Abuse programs (WCADV):**

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WCADV) has an extensive county by county directory for domestic abuse services. Go to [www.wcadv.org](http://www.wcadv.org) and click "Get Help" and then select a county in the drop down box for a list of domestic abuse services in your county.

### **3. Employment**

Information about the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) for dislocated, laid-off, and low-income youth and adults is available at <http://www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/directory>.

Information about vocational schools and work force development programs is available at <http://www.school-directory.net/schools-in-wisconsin.html>.

### **4. Food Resources**

Families and unaccompanied youth who are homeless are eligible for food stamps. A listing of county agencies can be found at

<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/localhealth/counties/LHD%20Report03122008.pdf>

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) has food pantries in each county at [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/health/Nutrition/TEFAP](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/health/Nutrition/TEFAP). This website can help you locate the TEFAP program in your county. Each county has additional food programs. Information about local food pantries can be found at a variety of websites, including <http://www.secondharvestwi.org/cgi-bin/site.pl> and [http://www.wiscap.org/cia\\_food\\_security.htm](http://www.wiscap.org/cia_food_security.htm). Check with churches and shelters in your area.

## **5. Health Services**

Many families may qualify for BadgerCare Plus and the Family Planning Waiver Program. School professionals can help families and unaccompanied youth explore eligibility at <http://access.wi.gov>. ACCESS is a quick and easy way for people in Wisconsin to get answers to questions about available health and nutrition programs. ACCESS is an online tool that can determine what help is available to you from a variety of Wisconsin health, nutrition or other programs.

The Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation (WWHF) developed a resource guide that provides information on health care services and programs for women in Wisconsin's 72 counties. Click on WWHF resources and then Wisconsin Women's Health Guide at <http://www.wwhf.org>.

Wisconsin Covering Kids & Families (CKF) is a coalition of more than 65 organizations committed to reducing the number of uninsured children and families in Wisconsin. CKF provides brochures specific to each of Wisconsin's 72 counties and quick references to benefit programs including; BadgerCare Plus, Free/Low Cost School Meals, Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance, Wisconsin Shares, FoodShare, Wisconsin Works, and WIC. For best results when printing a brochure, choose the "Page Scaling: None" (or a similar) option, to avoid shrinking the brochure content found at <http://www.ckfwi.org/CountyBrochuresMap.htm>.

## **6. Housing**

The Wisconsin Front Door at <http://www.wifrontdoor.org> allows users to enter a geographic area of the state and obtain a listing of "affordable" available housing. This is also a good resource when parents need to choose a location while completing the Open Enrollment application.

## **7. Runaway Youth Services**

The Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services (WAHRS) provides services to runaway and homeless youth, including those who are pregnant and/or parenting. See the WAHRS website for a listing of state-wide youth programs at <http://www.wahrs.org>.

## **8. Transportation**

Information about providing transportation for students who are homeless can be found under "Resources" at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/homeless>

A listing of other resources can be found at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/homeless> on the bottom of the webpage under "Economic Support."